

NEWS

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2003
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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2003

Olympia - "Washington farmers' 2003 planting intentions are generally lower than last year", according to Ray Garibay, State Statistician for the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS). "Of the major crops, winter wheat is the only crop where acreage is above last year. Planted acreage for all other crops are unchanged or below last year. Water supplies are improving, but competition from the minor spring seeded crops, low 2002 prices, and the high costs of fuels, fertilizers and chemicals are influencing farmer's plans."

Spring wheat seedings for Washington are expected to be 600,000 acres, 20,000 acres less than last year. Oregon producers expect to plant 30,000 fewer acres and Idaho acreage is down 10,000 acres. Nationwide acreage fell from 15.7 million acres in 2002 to 14.6 million in 2003.

Winter and spring barley acreage is estimated at 310,000 acres in Washington, 40,000 acres below 2002. Oregon acreage was down 10,000 acres while Idaho acreage was up 10,000 acres. Nationwide acreage is up to 5.38 million acres, from 5.07 million acres last year.

Sugarbeet acreage for Washington is unchanged from last year, at 4,000 acres. Oregon is down 200 acres, and Idaho is off 2,000 acres. Total US acreage is expected to total 1,399.3 million acres, down 2 percent from 2002.

Dry bean acres are expected to fall 16,000 acres in 2003, reaching 25,000 acres. Oregon acreage is an estimated 10,000 acres, down 200 acres while Idaho acreage is up 5,000 acres to 100,000 acres. Acreage in the US fell almost

400,000 acres to 1,522.8 million. Low prices for the 2002 crop pushed planting intentions down.

Field corn acreage in Washington is down 10,000 acres to 120,000 acres. Oregon acreage fell from 62,000 acres last year to 60,000 acres this year while Idaho acreage is up 5,000 acres. US growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001.

Planted acres of **oats** in Washington is unchanged from 2002, at 35,000 acres. Idaho acreage is also unchanged from last year, at 125,000 acres. Oregon growers expect to plant 5,000 fewer acres than in 2002. US growers seeded and will seed for the 2003 crop year a total of 4.83 million acres, down 4 percent from last year's planted area.

Acres of **hay** for harvest is down in the Pacific Northwest from 2002. Washington acres are down 10,000 acres to 800,000 acres, Oregon is down 45,000 acres to 1.05 million acres and Idaho acreage is off 70,000 acres to 1.50 million acres. Nationally, producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres, down 1 percent from 2002.

Surveys and Estimates: These estimates are the results of the March Prospective Planting Survey conducted during the first two weeks of March. These estimates will be updated after our June survey results are released on June 30, 2003. The first estimate of winter wheat production will be published May 12, 2003. The first estimate of spring wheat and barley production will be published July 11, 2003

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS: SELECTED STATES & UNITED STATES, 2001-2003

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2001	2002	Ind. 2003	2002	Ind. 2003	2002	Ind. 2003	2001	2002	Ind. 2003
1,000 Acres										
All Wheat 1/	2,490	2,420	2,450	950	1,090	1,260	1,280	59,597	60,358	61,697
Winter 1/	1,850	1,800	1,850	800	970	730	760	41,078	41,735	44,308
Spring	640	620	600	150	120	530	520	15,609	15,714	14,556
Barley 1/	430	350	310	80	70	730	740	4,967	5,073	5,379
Oats	30	35	35	80	75	125	125	4,403	5,005	4,828
Corn	115	130	120	62	60	190	195	75,752	79,054	79,022
Dry Beans 2/	34.0	41.0	25.0	9.8	10.0	95.0	100.0	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8
Sugarbeets 3/	7.2	4.0	4.0	11.2	11.0	212.0	210.0	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3
All Hay 4/	790	810	800	1,095	1,050	1,570	1,500	63,521	64,497	63,552

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. 2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 3/ Relates to year of intended harvest except overwintered spring planted beets in California. 4/ Area harvested in 2001 & 2002 and intended for harvest in 2003.